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It is doubtful whether the derivation of the Anthocerotaceæ from the Sphærocarpales will be generally accepted. For the present, at least, the order must be regarded as a very isolated one, and perhaps best considered to represent a distinct class.

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INVERTEBRATES

UNDER the able leadership of Professors Zeigler and Woltereck there is appearing from Klinkhardt's press in Leipzig a series of excellent small monographs of familiar animals designed for the student, teacher, investigator and amateur who desires to secure a brief but authentic account of the results of systematic, histological, morphological, anatomical and embryological investigations on representative types of animals. Two volumes have already appeared, the frog by Dr. Hempelmann, and the rabbit by Dr. Gerhardt, and the series of invertebrates has been introduced by two volumes, volume 3 of the series on "Hydra und die Hydroiden" by Dr. Steche, of Leipzig, and volume 4 by Professor Meisenheimer, of Jena, on "Die Weinbergschnecke."

Dr. Steche's volume is designed not merely as a monograph on *Hydra* along the lines on which the series is planned, but adds to these the features of an introduction to the experimental treatment of biological problems as offered by the lower animals. *Hydra* is an exceptionally favorable subject for this treatment by virtue of its hardiness, ease of obtaining and of maintenance, and simplicity of structure. Few invertebrates have served as a basis of so many and so varied experimental tests and have been the object of so many investigations as *Hydra*. With this wealth of results before him it is not to be wondered at that this modest volume is open to the charge of some sins of omission. The choice of topics treated is, however, most catholic and this author has wisely avoided controversial difficulties. The histological and embryological sections are less

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[1] "Monographien einheimischer Tiere," Herausgegeben von Professor Dr. H. E. Ziegler, Stuttgart, und Professor Dr. R. Woltereck, Leipzig, Bd. 3; "Hydra und die Hydroiden. Zugleich eine Einführung in die experimentelle Behandlung biologischer Probleme an niederen Tieren," von Dr. Otto Steche, vi + 162 pp., 65 figs. in text and 2 pls., M. 4, geb. M. 4.80; Bd. 4, "Die Weibergschnecke, *Helix pomatia*," von Professor Johannes Meisenheimer, 140 pp., 1 pl. and 72 figs. in text, M. 4, geb M. 4.80.

developed than seems desirable, but in compensation the sections on biology and experimental subjects such as regeneration, regulation, grafting, graft hybrids, effects of external factors on growth and regeneration, polarity and heteromorphosis are well, though concisely, developed. Several pages of practical suggestions as to collection, rearing, feeding and preparing *Hydra* will be found very useful as will also the key to the species. The author conservatively clings to the widely current names *viridis, grisea* and *fusca* and rejects the older names of Pallas which strictly have priority.

Half of the book is given to the hydroids. Noteworthy in this are several superb figures of hydroid colonies from the Helgoland Nordsee Museum. A brief list of titles closes the volume from which we note the omission of Nutting's and Mayer's monographs.

The volume by Professor Meisenheimer upon the garden snail follows closely the program of the series, with perhaps less of emphasis upon the experimental and physiological aspects and more space taken for the presentation of the static phases which are greatly increased necessarily over those of a simple animal such as *Hydra*. But there appears still to be call for more expansion on the dynamic aspects of the subject in the case of this volume. The chapter upon the relation of the snail to the environment and to man is a concession in the right direction, and the prevalence of the biological standpoint throughout the anatomical chapters in some measure supplies the physiological data pertinent to the structural phases. These are very clearly and methodically set forth with abundant illustrations, many of which are new. A chapter on other land pulmonate mollusks affords an all too brief basis for comparison of the snail with other mollusks.

Both of these volumes will be exceedingly useful to zoologists in all countries, for the objects with which they deal are cosmopolitan. A similar series of monographic booklets on laboratory types based on American material would be of great value for American students and investigators.

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